¶ A Copie of the principall parts of his Maieſtie Commiſsions for granting of Pardons to ſuch as vſe Trades, whereto they haue not been Apprentices, and for diſpencing with them to continue the ſame for their Liues, notwithſtanding the Statute of *Quinto Elizabeth*.

IAMES by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all to whom theſe preſents ſhall come greeting. Whereas there is nothing more pleaſing to God, and profitable to the Common-wealth of this Our Realme, then the training vp of youth in good and commendable Arts, Trades, Sciences, and Myſteries, whereby they may be, not onely kept from idleneſſe and ſloth, (the parent of all enormities) but alſo made apt and expert for the ſeruice of the Common-wealth, in the vſe and practiſe of thoſe Arts and miſteries wherin they haue been educated and brought vp: To which end and purpoſe, diuers good and wholſome lawes haue beene made within this Our Realme of England; as namely, in the fift yeare of the raigne of our late deare Siſter of famous memorie Elizabeth, late Queene of England, Capite quarto, a certaine Act or Statute was made, entituled, An Act touching diuers Orders for Artificers, labourers, ſeruants of Husbandrie, and Apprentices; wherein it is (amongſt diuers other things) enacted, that after the firſt day of May then next comming, it ſhould not be lawfull to any perſon or perſons (other then ſuch as then did lawfully vſe or exercile any Art, Myſterie, or Manuall occupation) to ſet vp, occupie, vſe, or exercile any Craft, Myſterie, or Occupation then vſed, or occupied within the Realme of England or Wales, except he ſhould haue beene brought vp therein ſeauen yeres at the leaſt as an apprentice, in manner and forme as in the ſaid Statute is expreſſed; nor to ſet any perſon on worke in ſuch Myſtery, Art, or Occupation, being not a workman at that day, except he ſhould haue beene apprentice, as is aforeſaid, or elſe hauing ſerued as an apprentice, as is aforeſaid, ſhould or would become a Journyman, or hired by the yeare: Vpon paine that euery ſuch perſon, willingly offending or doing the contrary ſhould forfeit and loſe for euery default, Fortie ſhillings for euery moneth; As by the ſaid Statute (amongſt diuers other things) more at large appeareth. And whereas the ſaid Statute is of great vſe and importance in this Our Realme, as well for the trayning vp of youth in the knowledge and practiſe of ſundry good and commendable Arts, Trades, Myſteries, and manuall Occupations, whereby they may liue and be maintained, as otherwiſe for the benefit of our ſaid Realme. And whereas through the neglect of the due execution of the ſaid Statute, diuers and ſundry perſons within this our ſaid Realme haue taken vpon them to occupie, vſe, & exercile ſundry Arts, Myſteries, Crafts, and manuall Occupations, wherein they haue not bin brought vp as apprentices by the ſpace of ſeuen yeares, and haue alſo otherwiſe offended againſt the forme and intent of the ſaid Statute: In which ſaid Arts, Trades, and Myſteries, the ſaid perſons hauing now by the ſpace of many yeares together imployed, and beſtowed themſelues, their labours, ſtocks, and induſtries, haue now attained a good and perfect knowledge and vnderſtanding in the ſame, and are become ſetled in a conſtant Trade and condition of life, whereby they are enabled competently to maintaine themſelues and families, which otherwiſe were like to periſh, and fall into ſome idle and inordinate courſe of liuing, in caſe they ſhould be now reſtrained of and from the vſing and exerciſing of the ſame, or ſhould be puniſhed according to the true intent & meaning of the ſaid Statute, as many of them heretofore haue beene by informations and ſuits brought and proſecuted againſt them by common Informers and others, to whom they are ſtill expoſed, and lie open to be moleſted, ſued, and inquieted by the like Informations and ſutes, Vnleſſe we out of Our Royall and Princely compaſſion ſhall prouide ſome meanes to relieue them in this behalfe. Know yee therefore, that we tendring the publike good of our Realmes (which eſpecially is procured by the due execution of good and profitable lawes) doe hereby for Vs, our Heires and Succeſſors ſtraightly charge, require, and command all and euery our Iudges and Iuſtices of both our Benches, Barrons of the Exchequer, Iuſtices of the Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, and all and euery other Magiſtrates, and other Officers, for the time being, to whom it ſhall or may appertaine, That they and euery of them in their ſeuerall places reſpectiuely, doe take care, and from henceforth ſee to the due execution of the ſaid Statute, as well touching the training vp of apprentices in commendable Arts and Miſteries, (whereby they may not be ſuffered to liue idly and inordinately, but being therein well inſtituted in their apprentiſhips may afterwardes become profitable members and ſeruiceable to the Common-wealth) as in the reſtraining of others, (not ſo trained and brought vp) from the practiſe and exercile of any Art, Trade, or Myſterie, contrary to the ſaid recited Statute, or any branch or clauſe therein contained: vnder the paines and penalties expreſſed in the ſame, which hereafter we will ſhalbe duely leuied and executed vpon ſuch as ſhalbe found offenders therein. Neuertheleſſe, We being graciouſly pleaſed to extend our Royall fauour towardes ſuch of our Subiects, as hauing heretofore taken vppon them, and are now become ſetled and expert in the vſe and practiſe of Trades, Artes, Myſteries, and manuall Occupations, whereunto they haue not beene brought vp as apprentices, as aforeſaid, according to the forme of the ſaid Statute, as well by pardoning their offences in that behalfe paſt, as alſo by licenſing and diſpenſing with them for continuing the ſame Arts and Trades for the time to come, for and during their liues, And minding to free and acquit them for euer from thoſe moleſtations, ſutes and troubles which they haue been heretofore and might hereafter be put vnto by Informers, and others, by meanes of the premiſſes, in caſe they ſhall not imbrace our Princely grace in this behalfe. And willing that the rigor of the ſaid Statute ſhall not be exacted or inflicted vpon ſuch of our louing Subiects, as haue tranſgreſſed the ſaid Statute, and lie open and expoſed to the penalties thereof, as are yet willing and deſirous to take hold of and imbrace this our grace and bountie ſo fauourably and benignely proffered them. Know yee therefore, that We of our eſpeciall grace, certaine knowledge, and meere motion, haue ordained, authorized, named, & appointed, and by theſe preſents for Vs, our Heires, and Succeſſors, doe ordaine, authorize, name, and appoint Our truſtie and wel-beloued Sir Iames Spens Knight, Archibald Primroſe Eſquire, Henry Goldſmith Eſquire, and Robert More Eſquire, to be Our Commiſſioners for and during the terme of ſeuen yeeres from the date of theſe preſents, And we doe giue vnto them the ſaid Sir Iames Spens, Archibald Primroſe, Henry Goldſmith, and Robert More, or to any two or more of them,

53353

(whereof the said Sir Iames Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) full power and authority by all lawfull waies or meanes, to enquire and informe themselues of all such person and persons being Tradesmen and Artificers, which before the date of these presents haue vsed, exercised, erected, or set vp any Art, Trade, Mystery, or manuall Occupation, whereunto they haue not been bound or serued as Apprentices, according to the forme of the said recited Statute, and thereupon to treat, contract, compound, and agree with all and euery such person and persons, as hath or haue before the date hereof vsed, erected or set vp, any Trade, Art, Mistery, or manuall Occupation, contrary to the forme and effect of the said recited Statute, for such reasonable rates, summes of money, fine and fines, yearely payments, or annuities, as they shall thinke fit, for pardons, licenses, and dispensations to be made and granted from Us, Our Heires, and Successors, vnder the great seale of England, in manner hereafter expressed, to all and euery such person or persons offenders against the said Statute, as shall desire the same, as well for pardoning his or their offences past, as for licensing and dispensing with him and them to vse and exercise such Arts, Trades, Mysteries, or manuall Occupations which he or they respectiuely now doe, or any time before the date hereof haue vsed, set vp, or exercised, for and during the time and space of his and their naturall life and liues, without sute, Information, trouble, or molestation to be had or prosecuted against him or them, for or concerning the same by any Informers or others, or for or concerning any paine, penaltie, or forfeiture, mentioned or conteined in the said Statute, by reason of any offence committed, perpetrated, or done contrary to the forme and effect of the same, or any other Statute in that behalfe made to the contrary: And that it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Sir Iames Spens, Archibald Primrose, Henry Goldsmith, and Robert More, or any two or more of them (whereof the said Sir Iames Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) to contract, compound, and agree with the sayd offenders, and euery of them, as well before Informations, as after Informations against them exhibited in any Court whatsoeuer, for so much thereof as shall concerne Our part, and that before or after plea, or by or without any leaue, licence, or warrant of the Court, where any such Informations shall be exhibited, any Law, Statute, Constitution, or Ordinance made to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. And furthermore, of Our especiall grace, certaine knowledge, and meere motion, We doe for Us, Our Heires and Successors, by these presents giue and grant full power and authoritie to Our Atturney Generall for the time being, to prepare and draw vp in due forme of law, so many bils or bookes of pardons, licences, and dispensations for and in the name of Us, Our Heires, and Successors, during the time aforesaid, to be ingrossed and passed vnder Our Great Seale of England, as shalbe desired by the said Sir Iames Spens, Archibald Primrose, Henry Goldsmith, and Robert More, or any two or more of them, (whereof the said Sir Iames Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) for all such person or persons as they Our said Commissioners, or any two or more of them, (whereof the said Sir Iames Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) shall compound and agree with, for and concerning any the paines, penalties, offences, matters, causes, and premisses aforesaid. Prouided alwayes that in euery such seuerall pardon, licence, or dispensation to be prepared, and passed vnder Our great Seale as aforesaid, there shall not be conteined or inserted aboue the number of thirtie persons at the most. And Our further Will and pleasure is, And We doe hereby for Us, Our Heires, and Successors, grant, will, and ordaine, that all and euery such pardon, licence, or dispensation, as shall be so made or granted as aforesaid, shalbe good sufficient, and effectuall in law to all and euery such person or persons to whom the same shall be made and graunted, to authorize, enable, and warrant him and them to the free vse and exercise of all such Trades, Arts, Mysteries, and manuall Occupations which he or they at the date of these Our Letters Patents, or at any time before did vse or exercise, whereunto he or they neuer serued, or were bound as Apprentices, according to the forme of the said Statute, without being sued, molested, questioned, or any way troubled, or enquieted by Us, Our Heires, or Successors, or by any the Iudges, Iustices of either of Our Benches, Barons of Our Exchequer, or Our Atturney Generall for the time being, or by any other the Officers, Ministers, and Subiects of Us, Our Heires, or Successors, for, touching, or concerning the practising, vsing, or exercising of his or their said Arts, Trades, Mysteries, or manuall Occupations as aforesaid, contrary to the purport of the said recited Statute, or any other Statute in that behalfe made; The said Statute of Quinto Elizabeth, or any clause therein conteined to the contrary notwithstanding. In which said Letters Patents, or discharge, pardons, and licences of dispensations to be so drawne, or made to any person or persons compounded with as aforesaid, We will shall be conteined therein a clause of expresse charge and command in the name of Us, our Heires and Successors, to the Iudges and Iustices of both our Benches, Barons of Our Exchequer, Atturney Generall, Iustices of Peace, Maiors, Bayliffes, Aldermen, Sheriffes, Escheators, and all other Officers and Ministers to whom it may or shall appertaine, in their seuerall offices and places respectiuely, that they and euery of them respectiuely, in their seuerall offices and places, vpon the sight or shewing forth of any such pardon, license, or dispensation, or the inrolement, constat, or exemplification thereof, or a true Coppie of the same signed with the hands of the said Sir Iames Spens, Archibald Primrose, Henry Goldsmith, and Robert More, or any two or more of them (whereof the said Sir Iames Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) testifying the same, shall forthwith disallow and discharge all Informations, sutes, billes, plaints, Iudgements, and actions whatsoeuer, which are or shall be mooued, stirred, commenced, sued, or prosecuted against all or any of the said persons so compounded with, pardoned, licensed, and dispensed with as aforesaid, for or touching any offence or offences, committed, perpetrated, or done contrary to the forme of the said Statute, or any branch or clause therein conteined. And to giue order that no further processe or proceedings shall be had or awarded against them or any of them in that behalfe: And these presents shalbe to our said Iudges, Iustices, Barons of Our Exchequer, Atturney Generall, and all other Our said Officers, a sufficient warrant and discharge for the doing and performing of the premisses, according to the tenor and true meaning of these presents. And Our further Will and pleasure is, and We doe hereby require and charge, that from time to time, and at all times hereafter, Our Iudges and Iustices of either of Our Benches, Barons of Our Exchequer, & Our Atturney Generall, and all Iustices of Peace, as well within liberties as without, Maiors, Bayliffes, Aldermen, and chiefe Magistrates of Cities, Boroughes, and Townes Corporate, Sheriffes, Escheators, and all others, to whom it shall or may appertaine, That they and euery of them respectiuely in their seuerall offices and places, shall at all and euery time and times hereafter, accept, approue, and allow in all and euery Our Court and Courts of Record, and other place and places, as well of all and euery such Letters Patents of pardon, licenses, & dispensations, vnder the Great Seale of England, so to be made and granted as aforesaid, as of the inrolement, Constat, or exemplification thereof, or of a true Coppie of the same, vnder the hands of the said Sir Iames Spens, Archibald Primrose, Henry Goldsmith, and Robert More, or any two or more of them (whereof the said Sir Iames Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) testifying that the said person or persons haue compounded and receiued his Maiesties pardon, licence, or dispensation as aforesaid, as a good, full, and sufficient barre, release, dispensation, and discharge against Us, Our Heires, and Successors, without pleading the said pardon, license, or dispensation at large, or for, or concerning any penalties, or forfeitures accrued, or hereafter to be accrued vnto Us, Our Heires, or Successors, by or from any person or persons, named in the said Letters patents of Pardon, license, and dispensation for any of the offences and breaches of them or any of them respectiuely committed against the said Statute aboue recited, or any clause or article therein contained. In witnesse whereof We haue caused these Our Letters to be made Patents, Witnesse Our selfe at Westminster the fourth day of February, in the sixteenth yeere of Our Raigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the two and fiftieth.

Printed at London by *Iohn Beale*. 1619.

533534